

EDITORIALS:

New Brand of Justice?

Because a man is innocent until proven guilty, our court system generally bends over backward to assure justice.

But it seems to have gone a little far recently in a case heard at Inglewood Superior Court.

A man is arrested. He is questioned, charged and tried. His crime: two counts of burglary, a felony. State law provides that he may be sentenced to a term from one to five years in prison.

And now comes the punch line: This "special" burglar is sentenced to serve three weekends in Torrance City Jail.

No one can say the man received preferential treatment because one of his relatives is held in high regard in this city.

No one can claim there was any bargaining between judge and attorneys.

But the case does arouse curiosity. It does make a legitimately concerned police department even more concerned.

And although our court system must, by necessity, lean strongly toward the defendant to insure that justice is served, it seems this type of sentencing goes farther to injure our judicial system.

We hope this brand of "justice" is not an every-day occurrence.

'Who Needs Facts? We're Confused ...'

They didn't really come to seek an answer. They didn't come to present a solution. They didn't come to ask questions. Their minds were made up — they were determined not to be confused with the facts.

These angry residents came before school board members Monday to complain and to exercise emotions in need of a whipping boy.

They came to insult and to threaten board members.

Their complaint concerned absence of school bus service within a two-mile radius of South High School.

One angry woman complained she suffered from the flu "all last year" because she had to cart her child, a South High coed, to school daily.

Another citizen complained bitterly that when it rains his children have to "swim" to school. "We need sidewalks on these stretches where there are no homes," he asserted.

Board members suggested a solution. They asked parents to attend a City Council meeting and request city buses to service the area. They explained that school buses are being used to capacity — that there



CONGRESS NOMINEE Ted Bruinsma (right) confers with Fred Mill, one of two co-chairmen for Torrance "Bruinsma for Congress" Committee. Other co-chairman is Bill Shawger.

Brush, Forest Fires Cost \$58 Million

Brush and forest fires have cost Los Angeles County residents \$58.4 million in the last eight years.

That figure was announced this week by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn after he totalled extensive reports from the Los Angeles County and city fire departments and the County Flood Control District.

Hahn pointed out that 941 dwellings fell to flames in brush fires since 1954 within this county.

"These tragic totals will become even more shocking when the toll of the two giant fires raging north of the San Fernando Valley is assessed," he noted.

"They point up the need for intensifying our fire prevention program," Hahn stressed.

Supervisor Hahn was on the scene at Olive View Sanatorium when it was evacuated and burned. "This was nearly a major disaster which could have claimed many lives," he said. "In the future, I feel a very expensive sprinkler system must be provided in all

mountain areas to be immediately turned on when fire breaks out.

"I also contend that when burned areas are restored, plants of the succulent variety, which do not burn, should be utilized.

Hahn also recently called for the use of more personnel from juvenile and adult detention camps in constructing fire breaks, improving of trials and the planting of trees.

Hahn noted in a report from County Fire Chief Keith E. Klinger that some 750 boys and men from forestry and detention camps were employed in fire prevention work during the first six months of 1962.

"However, there are more than 1,750 juveniles in Pro-

batation Department facilities and more than 470 prisoners in detention camps under the Sheriff's Department," he pointed out.

"More personnel could be used in fire prevention," Hahn stressed. "Their time would be better spent working than 'filling time.'"

Hahn has met with Assistant County Administrative Officer Orville R. Caldwell and asked him to work with the Probation Department, Sheriff's Department, Road Department and Department of Forester and Fire Warden to "see if more progress can be made during the next six months than in the past."

Breakdowns in the eight-year total loss figures showed the County fire Department spending \$18,066,003 for fire protection in wooded areas.

Property loss in unincorporated county area totalled \$3,529,167, with 298 dwellings destroyed.

Two mammoth Malibu area fires accounted for huge losses in unincorporated county area since 1955. The first, in the Newton, Hume and Sherwood areas in 1956-57, accounted for property losses of \$1,237,978 and 107 destroyed dwelling.

The second, in 1958 in the Warner, Liberty and Mullholland areas, destroyed more than 125 dwellings and accounted for a loss of more than \$1 million.

Cost of protection within Los Angeles City for brush areas totalled \$8,997,471 since 1955, with a total of 644 dwellings and a property loss to fire of \$24,955,200.

Some 500 of those dwellings were lost in the Bel-Aire blaze of 1961.

In addition, some \$2,896,654 worth of flood damage was attributed to brush and forest fires since 1955 within Los Angeles County.

"Both the County and City Fire Departments have and will continue to diligently prevent forest fires and subdue them when they break out," Hahn stressed.

"They are among the best departments in the nation."

"But the high cost of fire prevention shows that the time is long overdue for other departments to utilize their personnel in custody to augment the work of professional fire fighters," Hahn said.

Bruinsma Co-Chairmen Named for Torrance

TORRANCE — Community leaders Fred Mill and Bill Shawger have been named co-chairmen of the "Bruinsma For Congress" campaign here.

Main headquarters for the 17th Congressional District race will be maintained at 2170 Torrance Blvd., Mill stated. "We feel Torrance holds the key to the November election, and you'll see plenty of activity concentrated in this community."

Bruinsma, 41-year-old San Pedro businessman and attorney, has established community organizations

throughout the 17th Congressional District.

In addition to Mill and Shawger, other appointments are Robert Vroman, campaign coordinator; Finance co-chairmen, Jim Post and Jerry Leonard; Neighborhood Committee, James Yarout, Helen Bailey and George Heaton; Women's Committee, Mrs. Stanley Jones; Headquarters Manager, Mrs. Donald Lipps and David Attridge; Steering Committee, George Vico, Ken Miller, Ken Chilton, George Post, Jack Montgomery and Jack Pole.

are no extra buses.

The board suggested the citizen complaining about puddles contact the city about sidewalks, since that is not a function of a school board.

"You are just putting us off," was the reaction. "Why don't you watch YOUR city?" ranted one woman, who obviously did not think Torrance was her city or that any of its responsibility was hers.

The group insulted board members, threatened to "tell our friends not to vote for the school bond issue," and stomped out when board members tried to reply.

None, on the way out, said he would attend a City Council meeting.

"Why should I watch the city? That's the school board's duty!"



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County Health Officer Warns Of Infection

K. H. SUTHERLAND, M.D., Los Angeles County Health Officer

Impetigo contagiosa is an acute, superficial disease of the skin that usually occurs on the face and hands. Although the infection is most unsightly, it is rarely serious unless occurring in young infants or in persons debilitated either by illness or age. If not treated properly, however, the disorder may result in permanent scarring of the skin.

The infection may occur at any age, but is most common among young children because of the ease by which germs are transmitted through the handling of books, pencils, toys, dishes, handkerchiefs, bed linen and other items, or through physical contact.

There are at least 2 types of the infection, each caused by different bacteria (streptococci and staphylococci). However, so alike are the skin eruptions in appearance that it is apparently difficult to distinguish one form of the infection from another. And, of course, both types of bacteria may be present causing a mixed infection.

A small water blister on the skin is the first sign of infection and this appears usually around the mouth, in about 2 to 5 days after exposure to the disease.

Within a day or two this thin elevation increases in size, bursts and crusts over. It is the secretion from the blister or sore that contains the bacteria which cause the disease. There may be one or several of these sores which vary considerably in size; some are very small, others over an inch in diameter.

Each individual eruption seems to run its course and disappear in about a week. Care must be taken to avoid reinfection, otherwise the disorder will clear up in one area just to break out in another, and so continue for some time. There is little, if any, discomfort, itching or burning unless in severe cases where the lesions may be widespread over the body.

Control measures emphasize cleanliness, as the disease will spread rapidly if personal hygiene is neglected. Contact with discharges from the sores or with articles soiled by such discharges should be avoided for the germs seem to enter apparently unbroken skin. School children are generally kept at home and away from other children until the

condition clears up since it is so easily transmitted from one child to another.

There are several ointments available that are considered effective in treating this condition, but the crusts or scabs of the lesions must first be moved before it applied—a procedure that should be repeated at each application.

A physician should always be consulted as impetigo does not usually improve without proper medical treatment. The treatment, however, is relatively simple and can keep a minor skin disorder from becoming a serious and disfiguring illness.

A pamphlet giving additional information on impetigo will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Dept., 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

BIG BILL! Last year, California brewers paid \$34 million for cans, bottles, crowns and related container materials. \$17.3 million for agricultural commodities used in the brewing process, \$13.2 million for freight and shipping services, and \$1.8 million for fuel and electricity.

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